

ENGLISH COINS  
COPPER TIN & BRONZE

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HENRY.









THE  
SERIES  
OF  
ENGLISH COINS,  
IN  
COPPER, TIN, & BRONZE.

BY J. HENRY.



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## PREFACE.

THE Series now presented will, it is hoped, prove acceptable and useful to the collector of English money which has been issued in Copper, Tin, and Bronze, a portion of numismatics hitherto somewhat neglected. The coins of each reign will be found fully described under their respective metals, and in the cases of the rarer specimens, the prices they have realized at recent sales are given, to the others are affixed the usual values at which they are sold.

Much of the information relating to the Tin coins has been derived from the communications of R. A. Hoblyn, Esq., to the *Numismatic Chronicle*, and who has also kindly furnished dates of issue of the last three reigns.

Notes and descriptions of any variations, either of date or type, to the coins mentioned, will be thankfully received and acknowledged by

J. HENRY.

48, DEVONSHIRE STREET, LONDON, W.C.

*June, 1879.*





## ENGLISH COPPER, TIN, AND BRONZE COINS.

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A COINAGE in a metal of less value than gold or silver has existed in this country from a very early period. British coins in copper or tin are not infrequent. It is well known the Romans issued an extensive and varied coinage in bronze during their occupation, and their successors, the Saxons, although seemingly confined to the Northern districts of England, struck a small coin of mixed metal known as a Styca, hundreds of varieties being engraved in the various works treating upon that class of money. From the Norman Conquest until the reign of James the First, a period of upwards of five centuries, no coins other than those of gold and silver were issued in this country by the crown, or with its sanction. This is the more remarkable, as in the provinces of France, then governed by the English sovereigns, coins in billon (a mixture of copper and other metals) were issued in nearly every reign, and in the adjoining realm of Scotland billon money was current in the 14th century.

During this long period, provisions and other necessities of life were comparatively of little cost, and could be purchased at a far less rate than even a farthing's value, the smallest authorized silver coin then in circulation, and which was first issued by Edward the First. The consequences being that the people, as appears from the many complaints recorded in the Parliamentary proceedings of the 14th and later centuries, had to use the base coins issued on the Continent, and which were variously known as Suskines, Doitkins, Crockards, Galley-half-pence, &c., all of which were brought here by the merchants trading to London from the Continent, and in the absence of small money were used by the people, notwithstanding the many enactments to the contrary.

Abbey pieces or jettons, and tokens of lead, latten (a better kind of brass), and even, it is stated, of leather, were also current in the 15th century. Many of these coins remain to this day, some of the abbey pieces being struck from dies bearing elegant designs, probably serving the double purpose of money and as passes or tickets to the numerous travellers and pilgrims visiting the various shrines. The leaden tokens are of rude execution, and from having been almost totally neglected by collectors, are rarely met with. They, it is possible, came into use from the cloth-workers, who were required to affix a leaden seal, denoting the quality and length, to each piece of cloth offered for sale, to whom therefore the making of tokens was customary. These leaden tokens bear a strong resemblance, both in size and

types, to the cloth marks not unfrequently yet found, and were probably issued by the large tradesmen and cloth merchants at the numerous fairs and markets they attended. They vary greatly in diameter, from size 7 to 2, one side usually bearing the initials of the issuer, the other having a rude design, occasionally a shield.

Although frequently forbidden by proclamation and otherwise, these tokens and jettons, as well as the Continental coins, appear to have enjoyed a very considerable circulation, probably arising from the smaller silver coins, the halfpennies and farthings, being never too plentifully coined, and also that from their thin and minute size they were extremely liable to get lost, thus anything representing a monetary value and of decent size would be readily current, especially among the lower orders, few of whom would be able to read, or perhaps care to distinguish between the English and Foreign coins, so long as the persons to whom they were tendered did not refuse them at the value at which they were current. The leaden and brass tokens and jettons seem to have been in general circulation all over the country.

A somewhat similar case exists in the present day, when one can scarcely take sixpence in bronze, at least in London, without getting one or even more French coins amongst the number, and which pass current without comment. During the reign of Henry VIII. it may be presumed the base pennies served in some degree to lessen the currency of foreign coins and

tokens, indeed it is only by courtesy that the coins composed of two thirds alloy, which were issued during the sovereignty of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Mary, can be classed as belonging to an issue of silver money.

No coins, however, really pertaining to copper currency appear before the reign of Elizabeth, of whom there remain several pattern pieces of lead, tin, silver, and copper, and who also struck copper pence and half-pence for Ireland. She also caused the base money of her predecessors to be melted, having before, in 1558, reduced their current value to what they were intrinsically worth; but the great want of small money occasioned the general use by small tradesmen and the poorer classes of the private tokens of lead, &c., as in preceding times, causing frequent complaints from the failure in many cases of the issuers to rechange them.

In 1574 a proposition was made to the Queen to coin halfpence and farthings of 12 and 16 grains each, from a mixed metal of two thirds fine silver and one third alloy, but was declined.

From time to time during the later years of Elizabeth's reign proposals were made for the issue of tokens or pledges for halfpence and farthings, and the matter proceeded so far that a proclamation was prepared to render them current, and forbidding the circulation of the private tokens, without the royal sanction being obtained, on pain of imprisonment for one year, with a fine in addition, of the person uttering them.

The halfpence and farthings were to be of the weight of twenty-four and twelve grains respectively, and were

to be a legal tender to the amount of fourpence, any person refusing them to suffer imprisonment. Various other arrangements for the furtherance of the scheme were prepared, but the proclamation was never issued, and the project fell through.

James ascended the throne 24th March, 1603, and although the subject was frequently brought under the notice of the Privy Council, nothing appears to have been attempted in the way of a copper issue until ten years after his accession, when, in April, 1613, letters patent were granted to Baron Harington, of Exton, in Rutlandshire, to coin farthing tokens.

These farthings, or tokens, were issued in May, 1613, and excited general ridicule and aversion, being denounced by the writers of the day as utterly worthless. They even became the butt of the play-wright, and are frequently mentioned with contempt in the ballads of the period. They were nicknamed "Harringtons,"\* from the patentee, who, however, was not the only person engaged in this fraudulent proceeding, he having died in 1613, and his son and successor in the following February. The grant then passed to his widow, and upon her decease in May, 1620, to the Duke of Richmond and the Marquis of Hamilton.

These farthings have :—

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\* John Harington, created in 1611 Baron Harington of Exton, in the County of Rutland, obtained a patent for the issue of these tokens, and they were forced into circulation by the King's proclamation, 19th May, 1613. The fret, commonly known as the Harington Knot, is a charge in the arms of the Harington family.



*Obv.* IACO. D. G. MAG. BRI. Two sceptres through a crown.

*Rev.* FRA. ET. HIB. REX. A harp crowned, *m.m.* a rose.

Another issue, less in size, *m.m.* a cinquefoil.

Another issue, still less, *m.m.* a fret.

The circulation of these farthings was opposed by the people, who refused to receive them, notwithstanding the repeated proclamations of the king, who received a good share of the profits, which, as a pound weight of copper produced twenty four shillings and threepence in farthings, was not inconsiderable.

These tokens are not uncommon, and a good specimen may be obtained for a shilling.

Mint trial pieces occur, having two or more tokens on a slip of copper, a specimen lately in my possession had four on the slip, from which it may be inferred they were struck upon sheet copper and afterwards cut out. These examples, especially those having more than two, are rarely met with.

The death of James I. occurred on March 27th, 1625, and his son, Charles I., authorized the currency of the farthing token issued during his Father's reign, by his proclamation in May of the same year. The proclamation further legalized the issue then taking place under the direction of the Dowager Duchess of Richmond and Sir Francis Crane, the then patentees, and in the next month another proclamation continued the patent in their hands.

It appears that these tokens were counterfeited in all directions, which was very likely, owing to the ease with which it could be accomplished, and the great

profit arising from their production. As a deterrent, it was ordered, in 1633, that both the counterfeiters and the makers of tools for the purpose should, on conviction, be fined £100, be set in the Pillory in Cheapside, and then whipped through the streets to Bridewell, there to be kept until they found security for their good behaviour.

The following varieties of farthing token were issued during this reign :—

*Obv.* CARO. D. G. MAG. BRI. Two sceptres through a crown, *m.m.* a rose. *Rev.* FRA. ET. HIB. REX. a harp crowned.

*Obv.* CARO. D. G. MAG. BRIT. *Rev.* FRAN. ET. HIB. REX. Type as last, *m.m.* a lozenge.

*Obv.* CAROLVS D. G. MAG. BRIT. *Rev.* FRAN. ET. HIB. REX. Type similar, but having an inner circle, *m.m.* a wool-pack.

*Obv.* CAROLVS D. G. MAG. BR. Two sceptres as above, *m.m.* a crescent. *Rev.* FRA. ET. HIB. REX. A rose crowned, *m.m.* a star, or *m.m.* on both sides, a crescent, and having BRI. and HI.

The first and second examples are occasionally met with, having two or more impressions upon a copper slip. The last described coin is about half the size of the previous issues, but thicker and neater. Good specimens of any of the above types may be purchased for one shilling each.

The mint house, or office, for the business of the Tokens was in Lothbury, in the City of London, and is yet a place of “*great sells*,” retaining the name as Token-house-yard.

At the revolution and assumption of power by the

Parliament several orders were made with reference to the farthings, and several petitions were presented to the House on the subject, with the result of a final end being put to their circulation about 1644.

During the Commonwealth and Protectorate no copper money was issued by the Government, although patterns were prepared, several varieties existing in both pewter and copper. It was during these years that the enormous issue of Private Traders' Tokens took place, now so well known to Numismatists as 17th Century tokens.

After the restoration of Charles II., one, Sir Thomas Armstrong obtained letters patent in December, 1660, to strike copper farthings for Ireland; but nothing in the way of a copper coinage was accomplished in England until 1672, although various patterns of an earlier date are found in cabinets.

## CHARLES II.

8 *May*, 1660—6 *February*, 1685.

### COPPER.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* CAROLVS A CAROLO, Laureated bust of the king to the left, in armour. *Rev.* BRITANNIA. A figure of Britannia, seated, in her right hand a palm branch, a spear in her left, at her side an oval shield bearing the crosses of S. George and S. Andrew. In the exergue, the date 1672, 1673 or 1675.

FARTHING. Similar in type and legends, dated 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675 and 1679.

### TIN.

FARTHING. Similar legends and design to the copper farthing,

but without date on *rev.* In the centre a stud of copper, to prevent their being easily counterfeited, although with no great success, as it is stated forgeries of them were common enough. *Edge* inscribed NVMMORVM \* FAMVLVS \* 1684.

Similar, but dated 1685. This date is very rare.

The copper halfpenny and farthing were made current by proclamation on the 16th August 1672; they are of pure copper, at the rate of 175 grains to the halfpenny, and were made a legal tender for any amount not exceeding sixpence.

These copper coins were issued at an office in Fenchurch Street, City, near Mincing Lane, from 9 a.m. to 12, and from 2 to 5 p.m.\* Farthings only were issued during 1672, the halfpenny not being ready until the following year.

They are not uncommon, except when in fine condition, the farthing being worth from one to five shillings, the halfpenny from the same price to ten shillings, for a very fine specimen.

The tin farthings weigh at the same rate. The cost of striking and issuing was about fourpence per pound, the price of the tin about eightpence per pound, so that as 20 pence were coined out of one pound of tin, there would be a profit of about 40 per cent on the transaction. The inscription on the edge was doubtless intended to convey the intimation that the coin was issued as a token, or pledge, of money of a better metal.

These farthings are scarce, and when in fine preser-

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\* London Gazette, Aug. 22nd, 1672.

vation rare. They are worth from three shillings to one pound per specimen, according to their condition.

The dies for the above coins were engraved by John Roettier, a native of Antwerp, who received one penny for every pound of coins struck. The figure of Britannia on the reverse is stated to have been intended for a likeness of Miss Stewart, afterwards Duchess of Richmond.

The meaning of the obverse legend *Carolus. a. Carolo.* is not very clear, it was probably intended to be read as Charles to Charles, thus ignoring the Interregnum and Protectorate. In a similar style of bombast, upon the silver coins of this king, the date of the year of the reign is reckoned from the death of Charles the First.

## JAMES II.

6 February, 1685—23 December, 1688.

### TIN.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* JACOBVS. SECVNDVS. draped and laureated bust of the King, to the right. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, similar to the halfpenny, of Charles II. In the centre a copper. *Edge* inscribed NVMMORVM \*  
JACOBVS \* 1685, or 1687.

FARTHING. *Obv.* Similar to the halfpenny except that the bust is *in armour*, and not draped. *Edge* dated 1684 or 1685.

No copper money was issued by authority in England during this reign. At the Cuff sale, June, 1854, a tin halfpenny and farthing in fine state brought 16s.



Murchison sale, halfpenny, 1685, and farthing, 1684, 12s. Hadwen sale, halfpenny and farthing, 1685, £1. Bergne sale, May, 1873, lot 975, halfpenny and farthing, both dated 1687 (?) 17s. All these coins were in fine preservation.

James II. granted a patent to Thomas Neale and others, to coin this money at the rate of 20 pence from each pound weight of tin, on condition of their paying £40 per cent. out of the profits, to himself.

## WILLIAM AND MARY.

13 *February*, 1689—28 *December*, 1694.

### TIN.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* GVLIELMVS ET. MARIA., busts of the king and queen to the right, he laureated and in armour, with long hair, she draped. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, figure of Britannia seated, etc. In the exergue, 1689. *Edge* inscribed NVMMORVM + FAMVLVS + 1689 +

Similar, but no date in exergue, edge dated 1690.

Similar, but no date in exergue, edge dated 1691.

Similar, but both exergue and edge have the date 1691.

Similar, but dated 1692 on edge only,

Similar, but dated 1692 on both exergue and edge,

Similar, but having 1691 on the exergue and the edge having 1692.

FARTHING. *Obv.* and *Rev.* similar to the halfpenny. Dated in the exergue 1690.

Similar, but dated on both edge and exergue 1691.

Similar, but edge and exergue have the date 1692.

These tin halfpennies and farthings continued to be coined till 1692. Between March 1684 and January 1692, 344 tons of tin money had been issued, amounting to £65,929 15s. 9d, which is very near 21d. per pound weight. Tin being at that time £65 per ton (or nearly 7d. per pound) The dies were engraved by George Bowers, until his death, February, 1690, and afterwards by Henry Harris and James Roettier.—*Snelling*.

The tin money of William and Mary is rare, and especially so in fine condition. At the Hadwen sale, a halfpenny and farthing dated 1690, sold for 16s. At the Bergne sale, two halfpennies and a farthing, dates 1690 and 1692, sold for £1 4s. All the above were fine.

#### COPPER.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* GVLIELMVS ET MARIA, busts of the king and queen as before. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, figure of Britannia seated, &c., in the exergue the date. *Edge* plain. Date 1694.

FARTHING. Similar legends and design, dated in the exergue. *Edge* plain. Dates 1692, 1693 and 1694. The first two dates are but seldom met with.

The farthings (and halfpence?) were issued by Andrew Corbett, who obtained a patent for nine years, from Lady Day, 1693, at a yearly rental of £1000.—*Snelling*.

The copper money of William and Mary is very scarce when in fine preservation. Halfpennies and farthings range from 2s. or 2s. 6d.; to as high, when in perfect condition, as £1 per specimen. At the

Bergne sale two halfpennies, both very fine, dated 1694, and an Irish halfpenny, realized £1 12s. Another lot, a proof of the halfpenny in perfect state sold for £1 16s.

### WILLIAM III.

28 *December*, 1694—8 *March*, 1702.

#### COPPER.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* GVLIELMVS TERTIVS, laureated bust of the king to the right, in armour. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, figure of Britannia, &c. The date on this coin is sometimes placed in the exergue, on others it immediately follows the word Britannia. The following dates occur 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, and 1701. *Edge* plain.

FARTHING. Similar to the halfpenny. The same variations in the position of the date occur. The dates range from 1695 to 1701 inclusive. *Edge* being plain.

The halfpennies and farthings of this reign were issued under a patent granted to Sir John Herne and others, from Midsummer, 1694, for seven years. It appears from the Journals of the House of Commons quoted by Snelling, that constant complaints were made by tradesmen and others, both of the quality and quantity of copper money coined, the result in the end being that an Act was brought in ordering the total stoppage of the coining of Copper money after 24th June, 1699, but it does not appear to have passed. In the next two following years a similar bill was brought in with the same result.

Many of these halfpence and farthings were *cast* by the patentees, as they admitted, saying they were as

heavy as those that were struck.\* It further appears that the dies were sunk by foreign engravers, who worked for less than English artists.

The copper money of William III. is very rare when in good preservation. Worn specimens may be purchased from 1s. each, but when in fine state, his money, both silver and copper, rapidly increases in value according to condition. At the Bergne sale, a halfpenny, 1699, and a farthing, 1695, both very fine, sold for 12s., and the next lot, a halfpenny dated 1701, and extremely fine, realized £1 14s.

## ANNE.

8 *March*, 1702—1 *August*, 1714.

### COPPER.

FARTHING. *Obv.* ANNA DEI GRATIA, bust of the queen to the left, draped, her hair encircled with a string of pearls. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, a figure of Britannia, seated to the left, in her right hand a branch of palm, her left supporting a spear, at her side is an oval shield bearing the united crosses of S. George and S. Andrew. In the exergue, 1714.

It is doubtful if any copper money was issued for circulation during this reign, although many patterns are in existence of both halfpence and farthings. This, the common farthing of Anne, or rather, the less rare,

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\* As copper does not admit of being cast with any degree of sharpness, unless there is a slight admixture of some other metal, such as tin or zinc, the complaints of the quality of the coins appear to have been well founded.

was probably intended for currency, if never actually issued. It is possible a small number were put into circulation, the death of Anne, in this year, causing their discontinuance.

At the Thomas sale, February, 1844, a farthing of this type realized £1 1s. At the Bergne Sale, May, 1873, two farthings of this type, one having a broad rim, sold for £2 4s. Good specimens generally sell for about a guinea, worn coins from 7s. 6d. upwards.

When it is considered what an enormous amount of copper money was issued in the previous reign, and the consequent absence of demand in this, there is nothing remarkable in the cessation of the issue of copper money. That the want of such coins was again becoming felt is evidenced by the numerous patterns of both halfpence and farthings, which were prepared towards the close of Anne's reign.

## GEORGE I.

1 *August*, 1714—11 *June*, 1727.

### COPPER.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* GEORGIUS REX, bust of the king to the right, laureated and draped. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, figure of Britannia, seated, &c., as on the farthing of Anne. On each side, the edge is grained, and the legends, &c., are enclosed within an inner circle.

FARTHING. Similar to the halfpenny.

The halfpence dated 1717 and 1718, are smaller and



thicker than those of later dates, and are known as "dumps," they are much scarcer than the last.

The above coins were from dies engraved by John Croker, they occur of every date from 1717 to 1724 inclusive, and are much lighter than those of the last reign, 28 pence being now made out of one pound of copper, instead of the previous 21 pence. The copper cost 1s. 6d. per pound, and there were coined in all, some  $213\frac{1}{2}$  tons, producing £46,000 sterling. These coins are very scarce when in very fine condition, the "dumps" especially so. They range from one to five shillings per specimen, and the "dumps" from half-a-crown, according to the state of preservation.

## GEORGE II.

11 *June*, 1727—25 *October*, 1760.

### COPPER.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* GEORGIVS II. REX., bust of the king to the left, laureated and in armour. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, usual figure of Britannia seated. Dated in the exergue, the dates being from 1729 to 1739 inclusive.

FARTHING. Similar to the halfpenny.

The coins above mentioned are of his first issue, and are known as those bearing the "young head."

On a halfpenny bearing date 1730, occurs a curious blunder in the name, which is misspelt GEOGIVS. The halfpennies and farthings of this coinage are scarce when in good preservation, and are worth from one to five shillings per specimen. It appears that no less

than 362 tons 9 qrs. weight of copper were issued from 1729 to 1739 inclusive, producing £76,760 5s. 1½d.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* GEORGIVS or GEORGIUS II. REX., bust of the king with laureated head, and in armour, to the left, the face has the appearance of greater age than the preceding issue, the bust being larger. *Rev.* Similar to the last issue. Dated 1740 to 1754.

FARTHING. Similar to the halfpenny.

This issue is termed the “old head” money, and of it was coined during the years 1740—1754, both inclusive, 456 tons 6 cwt. 1 qr. 25½ pounds, producing £92,499 17s. 4½d. And in addition there were a large number of counterfeits in circulation. The coins of this issue are common.

### GEORGE III.

25 *October*, 1760—29 *January*, 1820.

#### COPPER.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* GEORGIVS III. REX., bust with short hair, laureated, and in armour to the right. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, Britannia seated upon a globe, with spear and branch, in the exergue the date.

FARTHING. Similar.

The coins of this issue are dated 1770—1775, both years inclusive, many are very badly and carelessly struck from wretchedly engraved dies, probably these are “Brummagem” forgeries. The papers of that period contain many complaints of the numerous counterfeits of copper coins then current, and several

deputations were made to the government of the day on the subject.

Mr. Boulton of Soho in a letter to Lord Hawkesbury, dated 14th April, 1789, says. "In the course of my journeys I observe that I receive upon an average two-thirds counterfeit halfpence for change at toll-gates, &c., and I believe the evil is daily increasing, as the spurious money is carried into circulation by the lowest class of manufacturers, who pay with it the principal part of the wages of the poor people they employ. They purchase from subterraneous coiners 36 shillings'-worth of copper (in nominal value) for 20 shillings, so that the profit derived from the cheating is very large. The trade is carried on to so great an extent that at a public meeting at Stockport in Cheshire, in January last, the magistrates and inhabitants came to a resolution to take no other halfpence in future than those of the Anglesey Company (also an illegal coinage, though of full weight and value of copper), and this resolution they have published in their newspapers."—*Lives of Boulton and Watt*.\*

This issue is the first bearing the name and titles of George III., although not the first during this reign, as in the years 1762 and 1763, 17 tons 14 cwt. 1 qr. of copper were coined into farthings from dies of George II., bearing date 1754.

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\* The punishment for this crime was sometimes of a very brutal character. In March, 1782, a woman, convicted of coining in London, was first strangled by the stool being taken from under her, and then fixed to a stake and burnt before the debtor's door at Newgate!—*Smiles*.

The coins of this issue are common.

TWOPENCE. *Obv.* GEORGIUS III. D: G. REX., the king's bust to the right, laureated and draped, the hair long and flowing over the shoulders. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, 1797, a figure of Britannia, seated to the left, her right arm extended, an olive branch in her hand; her left supporting a trident. By her side a shield, oval, and bearing the crosses of S. George and S. Andrew. The figure is seated upon a rock, nearly surrounded by the sea, a ship in the distance. Upon the rock, below the shield is SOHO in very small letters.

Soho is the name of a place near Birmingham, at which this, and the succeeding coins of this reign were struck, in the mint of Messrs. Boulton and Watt.

The twopence and the following penny are remarkable, for having the legends incuse upon a broad rim, the whole of the centre of the coin is sunk; the figures being in slight relief do not attain to the height of the rim, which on the twopence is nearly three sixteenths of an inch in width. The intention of this novel idea being to prevent the coins wearing in circulation, which it did, although at the same time they accumulated so much dirt and grease, that the scheme was abandoned.

PENNY. Similar to the two pence. Dated 1797.

These are the only coins in the English series of copper having broad rims and incuse lettering. The initial of Kuchler, the artist who engraved the dies, will be found upon the lowest fold of the drapery on the shoulder. Both these coins are somewhat difficult to meet with in very fine condition, a good specimen of the twopence being worth half-a-crown, and the penny two shillings.

HALFPENNY. *Obv.* GEORGIUS III. DEI GRATIA REX, bust similar to that upon the twopence. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, 1799. The figure seated to left as on the twopence, the waves cut off by a circle. *Edge* milled with short slanting lines.

The punch used in making the die for this coin was the same as that used for the broad rim halfpenny, which although never issued exists as a pattern, hence the sea is cut sharp off, causing a somewhat naked appearance, where the broad rim should have been. Upon a proof in my possession a continuance of the circle is clearly perceptible past the ship.

FARTHING. *Obv.* GEORGIUS III. DEI GRATIA REX, 1799, bust similar to that on the twopence. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, similar to the halfpenny. Under the sea I FARTHING preceded and ended by a small ornament. *Edge* milled as the halfpenny.

The same remark relative to the use of the punch originally prepared for a broad rim coin, may be made here. The sea has the same appearance as upon the halfpenny.

PENNY. *Obv.* GEORGIUS III. D : G. REX, laurcated bust to the right, varied from that on the preceding coins. The hair being short, and but little drapery, or shoulder, visible. Under the head the date 1806 or 1807. *Rev.* BRITANNIA, a similar figure to that on the twopence, with SOHO, on the rock. The waves however, terminate in a straight line from edge to edge, forming an exergue. *Edge* milled as last.

HALFPENNY. Similar to the penny. Same dates.

FARTHING. Also similar to the penny. Same dates.

The dies were engraved by Kuchler, his initial, a K,



will be found upon the truncation of the neck. All these last five coins are common, and good specimens may be obtained at from one to three shillings each.

## GEORGE IV.

29 *January*, 1820—26 *June*, 1830.

### COPPER.

FARTHING. *Obv.* GEORGIUS IIII. DEI GRATIA, laureated bust of the king to the left, draped. *Rev.* BRITANNIAR: REX FID: DEF: Britannia seated to the right, in her left hand a trident, her right supporting the usual shield, which is resting upon its edge; and holding an olive branch. A lion's head appears at her feet. *Edge* plain. The date 1821, 1822, 1823, 1825 or 1826, appears in the exergue.

PENNY. *Obv.* GEORGIUS IV. DEI GRATIA, laureated head to the left, underneath, the date. *Rev.* BRITANNIAR: REX FID: DEF: Britannia seated to right with spear and shield only. In the exergue, a rose, thistle, and shamrock, connected. *Edge* plain. Dates 1825, 1826, and 1827.

HALFPENNY. Similar, dated 1826 and 1827.

FARTHING. Similar, dated 1826 to 1830, inclusive.

The first issue farthing was struck from dies engraved by Pistrucci, and became current by Proclamation in November, 1821. It is common. The coins of the second issue were made current in January, 1826. The dies being by William Wyon, they also are common, but the penny and halfpenny are difficult to obtain in very fine condition.

HALF-FARTHING. *Obv.* GEORGIUS IV. DEI GRATIA, laureated head to left, larger in proportion than upon the previous coins, under the head the date 1828 or 1830. *Rev.* BRITANNIAR : REX FID : DEF : Britannia, &c., as upon the penny.

This coin is very generally admitted into cabinets of English coins, although really coined for Ceylon, it is very rare, that dated 1830 being probably the most difficult to obtain, and is worth from five shillings to seven and sixpence. There is also a copper one-third of a farthing, dated 1827, coined for Malta, which is commonly sold for about two shillings.

## WILLIAM IV.

26 *June*, 1830—20 *June* 1837.

### COPPER.

PENNY. *Obv.* GULIELMUS IIII. DEI GRATIA, head of the king to the right, under the head the date. *Rev.* BRITANNIAR : REX FID : DEF : Britannia seated, as on the coins of George IV. The laurel wreath on the king's head, omitted for the first time since Charles II., with the exception of the Anne farthing. *Edge* plain. Dated 1831, 1834, 1836 and 1837.

HALFPENNY. Similar. Dated 1831, 1834, 1836 and 1837.

FARTHING. Similar. Dated 1831, 1834, 1836 and 1837.

The pennies, halfpennies, and farthings are scarce when in fine condition, the penny being the most so. A very fine specimen is worth half-a-crown, the halfpenny and farthing about one shilling each.

HALF-FARTHING. Similar. Dated 1837.

This coin was issued for the Colonies, probably Ceylon, but only a very small number struck and is very rarely met with, a good specimen selling for 10s. 6d.

There are also one third farthings or Granos, of similar type, dated 1835, struck for Malta, and which are not uncommon.

## VICTORIA.

20 *June*, 1837.

### COPPER.

PENNY. *Obv.* VICTORIA DEI GRATIA, head of the queen to the left, hair confined by two bands, and brought to a knot at back of the head. Under the head the date. *Rev.* BRITANNIAR : REG : FID : DEF : a figure of Britannia seated to left, with the usual accompaniment of trident and shield. In the exergue the rose, shamrock, and thistle, conjoined. *Edge* plain. Dates 1841, 1843, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1851, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

HALFPENNY. Similar. Dates 1838, 1839, 1841, 1843, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, 1851, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

FARTHING. Similar. Dates 1838 to 1859, inclusive.

The pennies, and halfpennies, are scarce in fine condition, especially the earlier dates, and are worth about two shillings each. The farthings about one shilling.

HALF-FARTHING. *Obv.* VICTORIA D : G : BRITANNIAR : REGINA F : D : Similar head to the penny. *Rev.* HALF FARTHING, 1844, arranged in three lines across the field. A crown above, and the ornament of the rose, thistle, and shamrock united, below. *Edge* plain. Dates 1838 (!) 1839, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 56.

The half farthing is common and valued at a few pence. It was struck with the idea of its circulating in this country, but was never issued for general currency.

ONE-THIRD FARTHING. Similar to the penny. Date 1844.

QUARTER FARTHING. Similar to the half-farthing with the exception of having QUARTER instead of HALF on the reverse, and the ornament below the date, being a rose with six leaves. Dates 1839, 1851, 1852 and 1853.

These last two Coins were only issued for the Colonies, probably Malta. The one third farthing is scarce, and the quarter farthing is generally considered rare, selling at from two and sixpence to five shillings. Quite recently, however, a bag, containing several hundreds was purchased by me, many of the coins had evidently seen considerable circulation being worn quite smooth. The only information obtained from the seller was, that a sailor had brought them from abroad. The bulk consisted of the dates 1839 and 1853, 1851 being comparatively rare. They are therefore for a time common, and not worth more than sixpence each.

The whole of these coins were struck from dies engraved by William Wyon, and upon the truncation of the neck on the pennies of early dates are the letters W.W., his initials, incuse.

#### BRONZE.

PENNY. *Obv.* VICTORIA D : G : BRITT : REG : F : D : laureated bust of her majesty to the left, wearing a plain bodice  
' with a rose in front, over the left shoulder a mantle

decorated with roses, shamrocks and thistles, and the garter. The word *HONI* can just be distinguished at the back of the shoulder. *Rev.* ONE PENNY, Britannia seated to the right with spear and shield. The figure is copied exactly in every respect from that on the copper penny, the head of the trident being ornamented is the only variation. Behind the figure is a lighthouse, and in front a man-of-war. The figure is seated upon a rock surrounded by the sea, on all sides, except that towards the observer; the rock being cut off with a straight line forming an exergue, in which is placed the date 1860. And every subsequent year to the present.

HALFPENNY. Similar except having HALFPENNY on the *rev.* and the projecting foot of the figure is minus a sandal. Dated 1860, &c.

FARTHING. Similar to the penny, with exception of the reverse legend being FARTHING. The right foot of Britannia sandalless. Dated 1860, &c.

THIRD OF A FARTHING. Dated 1866, 1868 and 1876. For Malta.

These coins which replaced the copper coinage, of the previous years, in 1860, are struck in a bronze metal composed of 95 parts copper, 4 parts tin and 1 zinc, by weight. Forty-eight pence being made from each pound of metal, and as the metal is worth about one shilling per pound, there is a good profit on the transaction.

It may not be generally known that many of the coins of 1874 and succeeding years\* have been made at the mint of Messrs. Heaton, in Birmingham, and under the date of several of the pennies, halfpennies and farthings of 1874 and later dates, may be seen a small H the initial of the head of the firm, which some years

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\* 175 tons were struck during 1874—1876 by Messrs. Heaton.



since gave rise to a curious and silly story. Some facetious individual wrote to the "*Times*" stating that owing to the profit upon coining pennies he had been induced to make a large number and which were then in circulation, in verification of his statement he drew attention to the fact of his having placed a letter H upon those he had made, and as a very large percentage of the pennies of that year, had this mark, the letter gave rise to considerable discussion. This statement was at once denied, and Mr. Heaton wrote to the "*Times*" stating the true facts of the case, and exposing the hoax.

It is possible many persons saw, or heard, of the first statement, and never heard of the denial and explanation which followed, as small collections of pennies of 1874, having the H, are advertised and offered from time to time, the owners apparently not being aware that they might find those of succeeding years, having the same mark, amongst the currency, with as little trouble.

It appears by the mint return that the total amount of Bronze coins issued from 17th December, 1860, to 31st December, 1877, was, Pence 2,003 tons, Halfpence 1,072 tons, and Farthings 188 tons, in all 3,263 tons, of the nominal value of £1,367,963. Of this amount, 1,720 tons have been struck by Messrs. James Watt and Co., at Soho, 335 tons by Messrs. Ralph Heaton and Sons, of Birmingham, and the remaining 1,208 tons at the Mint.

The profit upon the Bronze coinage since its commencement in 1860, having been £690,307.

The value (nominal) of the Copper coin withdrawn from circulation during the 17 years ending 31st December, 1877, was £580,360 17s. 10d. So that the Bronze coins in circulation, far exceed the number and value of the previous Copper currency.

From enquiries made, it appears, there is little, if any, Copper money now circulating in this country. The dies for this coinage were engraved by Leonard Charles Wyon.

The following French bronze coins, although not legally in circulation, are so frequently met with, that in changing sixpence, one or more, are almost sure to be received. Passing current upon equal terms with our own bronze coinage, and being accepted by all, at least in London and other large towns, without question, they demand a notice here.

TEN CENTIMES. *Obv.* NAPOLEON III. EMPEREUR, 1856, between the date and legend a small ornament. Within a circle of beads, head of Napoleon to the left, under the head, BARRE, the name of the engraver, in minute letters. *Rev.* EMPIRE FRANCAIS \* DIX CENTIMES \*. Within a beaded circle, an eagle holding a thunder-bolt in his claws, underneath MA in monogram. *Edge* plain.

FIVE CENTIMES. *Obv.* Similar to the last. *Rev.* EMPIRE FRANCAISE \* CINQ CENTIMES \* an eagle, etc., under the eagle w., the coin being dated 1855.

Various other dates are to be met with.

Bronze coins of the French Republic, the Kingdom of Italy, bearing the head of Victor Emanuel; and of other Continental States, as also of Canada, are in circulation, but not to any great extent.

FINIS.







